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10/082,112	02/26/2002	Seijun Tanikawa	826.1797	3525

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EXAMINER
TRAN, PHILIP B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/082,112	TANIKAWA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Philip B. Tran	2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>20 June 2006</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____ .

Response to Amendment

1.   This office action is in response to the Amendment filed on 06/20/2006. No

claims have been amended or canceled. Therefore, claims 1-16 are presented for

further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the
United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application
by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this
title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act

of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical

Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting

directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior

to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3.   Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by

Nobakht, U.S. Pat. No. 6,785,716.

Regarding claim 1, Nobakht teaches an Internet appliance user management

system (= system server 110 is connected to the Internet) [see Fig. 1] which is

connected to an IA terminal (= user terminal 130A-D) via a network, comprising:

an IA terminal user storing unit storing IA terminal information including an IA

terminal identifier for identifying a number or mark of a manufacturer of the IA terminal,

service information including the kind of service to be received, and user registration

information including user information concerning the user who receives the service (=

storing user/terminal information such as userID, user PIN, terminal ID, manufacture

date, etc.) [see Figs. 1-4 and Col. 6, Line 37 to Col. 7, Line 36 and Col. 8, Lines 1-41];

a transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA terminal user management

system, transmitting and receiving the user registration information to and from the IA

terminal, and requests the IA terminal to input the user registration information (= input

devices such as remote control 202 and wireless keyboard 203) [see Figs. 1-2];

a user registration information collation unit collating the user registration

information received by the transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA

terminal user management system with the user registration information stored in the IA

terminal user storing unit and writing the user registration information in the IA terminal

user storing unit if necessary (= set-top box 131 controls access to Internet

sites/channels services by manually using input device (202, 203) via system controller

211 and writes user registration information in the user storage) [see Figs. 3-4 and Col.

6, Line 45 to Col. 7, Line 36 and Col. 8, Lines 1-41]; and

an automatic registration unit obtaining the user registration information which

has not been collated by the user registration information collation unit from the IA

terminal by means of the transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA terminal

user management system and registering said information in the IA terminal user

storing unit (= passing userID information directly from smart card to the set-top box

131) [see Fig. 4 and Col. 8, Lines 1-15].

Regarding claim 2, Nobakht further teaches the IA terminal user management

system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission and receiving unit on the side of

the IA terminal user management system receives user registration information

including the IA terminal identifier from the IA terminal, the user registration information

collation unit collates the received user registration information with the user registration

information stored in the IA terminal user storing unit, the transmission and receiving

unit on the side of the IA terminal user management system transmits the collated result

to the IA terminal, the transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA terminal user

management system receives additional user registration information which is not

included in the received user registration information from the IA terminal, and the

automatic registration unit registers the received additional user registration information

in the IA terminal user storing unit [see Figs. 3-4 and Abstract and Col. 6, Line 45 to Col.

7, Line 36 and Col. 8, Lines 1-41].

Regarding claims 3-4, Nobakht further teaches the IA terminal user management system, wherein the IA terminal user storing unit comprises a machine table which stores the IA terminal identifier in association with a user identifier for identifying the user, a subscriber table which stores the user identifier in association with a service provider identifier for identifying the service provider who provides the service, and an affinity table which stores the service provider identifier in association with the registration procedure for registering the user determined by the service provider (= format of records that include userID, user PIN, password, customer No., box serial No., channel table, site address, site name, etc) [see Figs. 3-5].

Regarding claims 5-8, Nobakht further teaches the IA terminal user management system, wherein the automatic registration unit erases the user registration information stored in the IA terminal user storing unit [see Col. 6, Line 37 to Col. 7, Line 17 and Col. 16, Lines 40-49].

Regarding claim 9, Nobakht teaches the IA terminal which performs information communication via a network, comprising:

a transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA terminal, transmitting and receiving IA terminal information including an IA terminal identifier for identifying a number or mark of a manufacturer of the IA terminal, service information including the kind of service to be received, and user registration information including user information concerning the user who receives the service to and from the IA terminal

user management system which manages the IA terminal via the network (= input

devices such as remote control 202 and wireless keyboard 203 or smart card 232 for

entering and transmitting user/terminal information such as userID, user PIN, terminal

ID, manufacture date, etc. ; and set-top box 131 for receiving user/terminal information

and controlling access to Internet sites/channels services) [see Figs. 1-4 and Col. 6,

Line 37 to Col. 7, Line 36 and Col. 8, Lines 1-41]; and

an input unit inputting insufficient user registration information based on the

request of the IA terminal user management system and writing the user registration

information in a user storing unit of the IA terminal whereas the transmission and

receiving unit on the IA terminal transmits the user registration information inputted by

the input unit to the IA terminal user management system (= controlling access to

Internet sites/channels services by manually using input device (202, 203) via system

controller 211 or passing userID information directly from smart card to the set-top box

131 and writing user registration information in the user storage) [see Figs. 3-4 and Col.

6, Line 45 to Col. 7, Line 36 and Col. 8, Lines 1-41].

Regarding claim 10, Nobakht further teaches the IA terminal according to claim

9, wherein the transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA terminal transmits

user registration information including the IA terminal identifier to the IA terminal user

management system, the transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA terminal

receives the result of having collated the transmitted user registration information and

the user registration information stored in the IA terminal user storing unit with which the

IA terminal user management system is provided, the input unit inputs additional user

registration information which is not included in the received user registration

information, and the transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA terminal

transmits the inputted additional user registration information to the IA terminal user

management system [see Figs. 3-4 and Abstract and Col. 6, Line 45 to Col. 7, Line 36

and Col. 8, Lines 1-41].

     Claim 11 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1.

     Claim 12 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 2.

     Claim 13 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 9.

     Claim 14 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 10.

     Claim 15 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1.

     Claim 16 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 9.

Response to Arguments

4.   Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive

because of the following reasons:

     A- Applicant argues that Nobakht fails to disclose each and every element

of claim 1 [see Remarks, Page 8].

     The examiner respectfully disagrees. Nobakht teaches an Internet appliance user

management system such as system server 110 is connected to the Internet [see Fig.

1] which is connected to an IA terminal such as user terminal 130A-D via a network,

comprising an IA terminal user storing unit storing IA terminal information including an

IA terminal identifier for identifying a number or mark of a manufacturer of the IA

terminal, service information including the kind of service to be received, and user

registration information including user information concerning the user who receives the

service. For example, Nobakht discloses storing user/terminal information such as

userID, user PIN, terminal ID, manufacture date, etc [see Figs. 1-4 and Col. 6, Line 37

to Col. 7, Line 36 and Col. 8, Lines 1-41].

Nobakht further teaches a transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA

terminal user management system, transmitting and receiving the user registration

information to and from the IA terminal, and requests the IA terminal to input the user

registration information. For example, Nobakht discloses input devices such as remote

control 202 and wireless keyboard 203 [see Figs. 1-2]. In addition, Nobakht further

teaches a user registration information collation unit collating the user registration

information received by the transmission and receiving unit on the side of the IA

terminal user management system with the user registration information stored in the IA

terminal user storing unit and writing the user registration information in the IA terminal

user storing unit if necessary. For example, Nobakht discloses set-top box 131 controls

access to Internet sites/channels services by manually using input device (202, 203) via

system controller 211 and writes user registration information in the user storage [see

Figs. 3-4 and Col. 6, Line 45 to Col. 7, Line 36 and Col. 8, Lines 1-41].

Moreover, Nobakht further teaches an automatic registration unit obtaining the

user registration information which has not been collated by the user registration

information collation unit from the IA terminal by means of the transmission and

receiving unit on the side of the IA terminal user management system and registering

said information in the IA terminal user storing unit. For example, Nobakht discloses

passing userID information directly from smart card to the set-top box 131 [see Fig. 4

and Col. 8, Lines 1-15].

Therefore, Nobakht does disclose every element of claim 1 as shown above.

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B- Applicant further argues that data such as the user ID, the terminal ID

and manufacture data etc are stored in the smart card 232 or the set top box 131

of the user terminal and the data is not stored in a IA terminal user management

system corresponding to a system server [see Remarks, Page 8].

The examiner respectfully disagrees. In fact, Nobakht clearly discloses that

"server 110 includes an input terminal 401 (e.g., a personal computer or workstation), a

CPU 412, a channel table database 414, a network database 416, and an update

manager database 418...Input terminal 401 is used to enter channel table data and

user/terminal information into channel table database 414 and network database 416,

respectively, using known data processing techniques... Channel table database 414

stores one or more master channel tables entered in this manner. Network database

416 stores user and terminal information used to identify and authorize users that

request service. In addition, network database 416 may store optional user home page

information that allows each user convenient and secure access to e-mail, chat, and

other Internet applications currently available to conventional network users. Update

manager database 418 stores terminal information, current channel table version

numbers, and other information used to coordinate user terminal update procedures."

[see Figs. 4 & 5(A-C) and Col. 8, Lines 1-41].

Therefore, data are stored in the database of the system server.

C- Applicant further argues that the present invention is different from the cited reference in that the present invention relates to information exchange between the IA terminal and the IA terminal management system (corresponding to the system server) [see Remarks, Page 9].

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Nobakht clearly discloses that "A channel-based network for accessing the Internet including a system server, one or more Internet sites and one or more user terminals that are connected via the Internet. The system server stores a master channel table that includes a list of channel numbers, each channel number having an associated Internet address and an associated Internet site name. Each Internet site of the network is addressable by an associated Internet address stored in the master channel table. Each user terminal automatically (i.e., without user participation) downloads and stores a local copy of the master channel table. The channel numbers and associated Internet site names are read from the downloaded local copy of the channel table and displayed, for example, on a television in a menu-like manner. The user selects an Internet site name from the displayed menu, and enters the channel number associated with the selected Internet site name using an input device that is similar to a television remote control. The user terminal then accesses the selected Internet site by reading the Internet address associated with

the entered channel number, and transmitting the Internet address onto the Internet."

[see Abstract].

In addition, Nobakht further discloses that "server 110 includes an input terminal

401 (e.g., a personal computer or workstation), a CPU 412, a channel table database

414, a network database 416, and an update manager database 418...Input terminal

401 is used to enter channel table data and user/terminal information into channel table

database 414 and network database 416, respectively, using known data processing

techniques... Channel table database 414 stores one or more master channel tables

entered in this manner. Network database 416 stores user and terminal information

used to identify and authorize users that request service. In addition, network database

416 may store optional user home page information that allows each user convenient

and secure access to e-mail, chat, and other Internet applications currently available to

conventional network users. Update manager database 418 stores terminal

information, current channel table version numbers, and other information used to

coordinate user terminal update procedures." [see Fig. 4 and Col. 8, Lines 1-41].

Therefore, Nobakht does disclose information exchange between the terminal

and the system server.

D- Applicant further argues that the cited reference does not describe or

suggest input and transmission of the missing information. Further, the issues

addressed by the present invention and the issues to be solved by the cited

reference are fundamentally different [see Remarks, Page 9].

The examiner respectfully disagrees. *In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e.,* **input and transmission of the missing information. Further, the issues addressed by the present invention and the issues to be solved by the cited reference are fundamentally different. That is, the present invention relates to ... The cited reference does not describe the initial registration of the initialization procedure)** *are not recited in the rejected claim(s).* *Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims.* See *In re Van Geuns,* **988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).**

Therefore, there is no such fundamental difference between the cited reference and the claimed invention as argued by applicant

In view of the foregoing, the examiner asserts that the cited reference Nobakht does teach or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claims. Dependent claims depend on independent claims and are therefore rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim and by other reasons set forth above. Accordingly, the examiner respectfully maintains the rejections for claims 1-16 as shown above.

Conclusion

5.   THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CAR 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY TO THIS FINAL ACTION
IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS ACTION.
IN THE EVENT A FIRST REPLY IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING
DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED
UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY
PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE
DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE
PURSUANT TO 37 CAR 1.136(A) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING
DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT, HOWEVER, WILL THE
STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE
MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Philip Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3991.

The Group fax phone number is (571) 273-8300. If attempts to reach the examiner by

telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar, can be reached on

(571) 272-4006.

7.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Philip Tran

Philip B. Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2155
September 22, 2006